

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 ACDA-19 AID-20 L-03 IGA-02

EB-11 MC-02 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:MWCOTTER:

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

PM/SAS:JLCLUNAN (DRAFT)

ARA/PLC-PM:JWILLIAMS (DRAFT)

EUR/WE:EBEIGEL (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218480

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MASS, ES, HO

SUBJECT:US MILITARY SALES POLICY RE EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS

REFERENCE: A) PARIS 28302; B) TEGUCIGALPA 4112

HONDURAS THE USG SUSPENDED SUPPLY OF MAP MATERIEL AND THE
SALE OF WEAPONS OR MAJOR PIECES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

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USG POLICY ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE SALES WAS REVIEWED IN

EARLY 1973. ONE RESULT OF THAT REVIEW WAS A DECISION TO

ENTERTAIN REQUESTS FROM BOTH COUNTRIES FOR

NON-SOPHISTICATED JET AND OTHER MILITARY AIRCRAFT; WITH

THE CAVEAT THAT AN,"EVENHANDEDNESS" POLICY MUST APPLY: I.E.,

BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD BE GIVEN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO BUY.

2. UNDER THE NEW POLICY THE USG HAS SOLD FIVE T-41B AIR-
CRAFT TO HONDURAS AND FIVE T-41A AIRCRAFT TO EL SALVADOR.

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EL SALVADOR HAS TAKEN DELIVERY BUT HONDURAS WILL NOT

RECEIVE ITS AIRCRAFT UNTIL EARLY 1974. THE T-41 AIRCRAFT SEEN IN HONDURAS IN OCTOBER WERE PURCHASED COMMERCIALY BY THE GOH FROM CESSNA.

3. THE USG ALSO HAS OFFERED A-37B JET AIRCRAFT TO BOTH COUNTRIES. HONDURAS HAS SIGNED A LETTER OF OFFER AND WILL TAKE DELIVERY OF SIX A-37B AIRCRAFT NO EARLIER THAN EARLY 1975. EL SALVADOR HAS NOT ACCEPTED THE US OFFER TO DATE. THE A-37B IS PRIMARILY A GROUND-SUPPORT AIRCRAFT DERIVED FROM THE T-37 JET TRAINER. FINALLY, WE HAVE INFORMED

BOTH COUNTRIES THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO SELL TEN C-47 AIRCRAFT TO EACH COUNTRY.

4. THE EMBASSY CAN DRAW ON THE ABOVE AS NEEDED TO REPLY TO GOF ENQUIRIES. ANY DISCUSSION SHOULD STRESS THE "EVENHANDEDNESS" POLICY WHICH ASSURES THAT EACH COUNTRY IS AWARE THE USG IS DEALING EQUALLY WITH BOTH.

5. FYI : EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS IN MEXICO ATTEMPTING TO SEEK A PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THEIR DISPUTE. AN UNAUTHORIZED LEAK OF INFORMATION THAT ISRAEL MAY SELL JET AIRCRAFT TO EL SALVADOR CAUSED A FUROR IN BOTH COUNTRIES RECENTLY, JEOPARDIZING THESE VERY SENSITIVE TALKS. EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS THIS SENSITIVITY TO GOF AND URGE THAT IN ANY ACTION IT TAKES THIS FACTOR BE BORNE IN MIND. END FYI.

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